THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work for development of Surat airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.30 crores has already commenced and is scheduled for completion by December 2006.

(c) Air Deccan had started operations on 19th July 2004 and subsequently suspended because of heavy water logging during monsoon. It re-commenced operation on 26th October 2004 which was again suspended since 21st July 2005.

(d) As mentioned at (b) above.

Night landing facility at Jabalpur Airport

†2114. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have provided the land for Jabalpur airport free of cost;

(b) whether the development works like construction of Terminal building, night landing facility etc. have been completed after the acqisition of the land; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. State Government of Madhya Pradesh has given 30 crores of land at Jabalpur Airport free of cost to Airports Authority of india (AAI).

(b) and (c) AAI has completed a new Terminal Building suitable for 200 passengers at a cost of Rs. 7.46 crores. Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR), distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) at both ends of runway have also been provided at a cost of Rs. 1.80 crores. Night Landing Facilities have not been planned due to restrictions imposed by Ministry of Defence on account of the close proximity of the Ordnance Depot.

Improvement in Air Services to US

2115. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether spurred by the far-reaching Civil Aviation pact signed recently between India and US, Continental airlines is set to start daily

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

non-stop service between New Jersey and New Delhi from November;

(b) whether Continental's Delhi-New-york service is being launched in November, 2005 and first scheduled flight will depart New-yorks Liberty International Airport;

(c) if so, what are the other main points of the pact signed between India and US; and

(d) to what extent Indo-US air service is fully improved and helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Continental airlines, a designated airline of USA has already commenced its daily non-stop service between Delhi and New-york with effect from 1st November, 2005.

(c) A revised Air Services Agreement was signed between India and USA in April, 2005 to increase cooperation in the aviation sector. Under this agreement, both sides can designate any number of services to any point in the territory of the other countrty with full intermediate and beyond traffic rights.

(d) The revised India-USA agreement would lead to more flights and better connectivity between the two countries providing more commercial opportunity to all Indian carriers. As a result of this agreement, the deisgnated airlines of India can now operate to any point in USA without any limitation on number of frequencies and Indian scheduled carriers can also code share with the US carriers to serve several points in the country.

Additional Air Services to Orissa

2116. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance air traffic in Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if, so the details of the steps proposed to be taken to beef up flight operations across the country; and

(c) the details of additional (to and fro) flights that are proposed to be started from Delhi and Mumbai airports to Orissa?